

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, AS, ID

SUBJECT: DEPSEC ROBINSON'S AUGUST 4 PRESS CONFERENCE  
REMARKS

PARAGRAPHS DEALING WITH INDONESIA ARE REPEATED FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION FROM CANBERRA 5700-TRANSCRIPT OF DEPUTY  
SECRETARY ROBINSON'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT CLOSE OF ANZUS  
COUNCIL MEETING:

Q: ANDREW KRUGER, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD:  
DOES THE UNITED STATE REGARD AS IMPORTANT IN A STRATEGIC  
SENSE, RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDONESIA AND COULD AUSTRALIA'S  
RECENT CRITICISM OF INDONESIA FOR ITS MILITARY TAKEOVER  
OF EAST TIMOR JEOPARDIZE THAT RELATIONSHIP?

A: WE CONSIDER INDONESIA VERY IMPORTANT IN BOTH POLITICAL  
AND IN ECONOMIC TERMS -- A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF OIL, AN EX-  
PANDING POPULATION, AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE ASEAN GROUP  
-- THE ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTH-EAST ASIAN NATIONS -- AND  
WE FEEL IT IS IN OUR INTEREST AND THE INTERESTS OF THE FREE  
WORLD TO SUPPORT INDONESIA IN THEIR BATTLE TO DEAL WITH  
VERY CRITICAL POPULATION AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE QUES-  
TION OF TIMOR IS ONE THAT CAN BE DEBATED. OBVIOUSLY YOU  
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ARE MORE SENSITIVE TO WHAT WENT ON IN TIMOR DUE TO THE PROXIMITY OF TIMOR TO AUSTRALIA. WE DO NOT CONDONE ARBITRARY AGGRESSIVE ACTION HOWEVER, AND WE CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND YOUR REACTION BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT FROM THE STAND POINT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WE DO NOT SEE THAT THE RATHER MODERATE CRITICISM THAT WAS EXTENDED FROM AUSTRALIA APPLIED TO INDONESIA WILL IN ANY WAY AFFECT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA IN THE LONG RUN, NOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU.

Q: BRUCE JUDDERY, THE CANBERRA TIMES:

WHEN PRIME MINISTER FRASER WAS IN CHINA RECENTLY HE WAS REPORTED AS EXPRESSING WITH THE PRESENT CHINESE LEADERS, CONCERN THAT THE POLITICAL STABILITY OF INDONESIA, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE REGIME (SIC). DO YOU SHARE THIS CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA AND WAS THIS DISCUSSED IN YOUR TALKS HERE, AND SECONDLY, WHAT IS THE REACTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE SUGGESTION THAT INDONESIA MIGHT DECLARE UNILATERALLY THAT THE WATERS OF THE ENTIRE ARCHIPELAGO, ITS OWN ENCIRCLED PROBLEM (SIC)?

A. WELL. I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THE VIEWS YOUR PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED IN CHINA BUT I WILL COMMENT ON OUR FEELINGS ABOUT INDONESIA'S IMPORTANCE STRATEGICALLY. INDONESIA IS IMPORTANT ECONOMICALLY -- AN IMPORTANT NATION BY VIRTUE OF ITS POPULATION AND SIZE AND ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND WE SEEK A CLOSER AND MORE CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA BECAUSE WE THINK IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL OTHER NATIONS OF THIS AREA. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE HOWEVER, ABOUT THE FUTURE OF INDONESIA -- THEY FACE SOME VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS, RAPIDLY EXPLODING POPULATION, THE LACK OF (I WANT TO BE VERY CAREFUL HOW I EXPRESS THIS), BUT THE CAPACITY TO MANAGE AND PLAN AND DIRECT THEIR ECONOMY BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THEY WILL FACE IN THE FUTURE (SIC). HOWEVER WE DON'T SEE ANYTHING IN THE IMMEDIATE PICTURE THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT SUHARTO WASN'T AN EFFECTIVE LEADER AND WILL CONTINUE IN THIS PRESENT GOVERNMENT, AND WILL CONTINUE IN POWER, AND WE OF COURSE, WILL RELATE TO INDONESIA ON THE BASIS OF THAT ASSUMPTION (SIC).  
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WITH REGARD TO THE DECLARATION OF WATERS IN THAT AREA AS THEIR PROPERTY OR THEIR TERRITORIAL RIGHT; WE ARE GUIDED BY THE POSITION THAT WE ARE TALKING IN RELATION TO THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATION WHICH IS IN PROGRESS RIGHT NOW IN NEW YORK, AND THAT WILL, IF SUCCESSFUL, IF NOT AT THIS MEETING, THAT SUCH GOOD CONFERENCES WILL LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE BASIC ZONES, THE TERRITORIAL AREA WHICH EXTENDS TWELVE MILES FROM THE COAST -- AN ECONOMIC

AREA WHICH EXTENDS 200 MILES BEYOND THAT TO THE DEEP SEA  
BED (SIC). ANY ACTION TAKEN BY ANY COUNTRY UNILATERALLY,  
WHICH IS INCONSISTENT WITH THOSE PRINCIPLES WE WOULD  
OPPOSE, AND THEREFORE I AM NOT FULLY AWARE OF THEIR  
CLAIMS, BUT LET ME JUST SAY THAT IN PRINCIPLE IF IT IS NOT  
CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICIES THAT WE ARE PURSUING AND THE  
GUIDELINES WE ARE HOPING TO ESTABLISH -- AND THAT OBJEC-  
TIVE IS SHARED BY MOST OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS OF  
THE WORLD -- THEN WE WOULD FIND A UNILATERAL APPROACH  
INCONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDELINES THAT WE THINK ARE IM-  
PORTANT FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD (SIC).  
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